



U.S. OFFICE PRISTINA

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Monthly Newsletter



Representative Pomeroy with Hope Fellowship Program participants
03/18-21/08

REPRESENTATIVE EARL POMEROY MEETS YOUNG KOSOVO LEADERS

On his visit to Kosovo March 18-21, Representative Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) celebrated the 7th anniversary of the *Hope Fellowship Program*. Designed to bring young, future Kosovo leaders to the U.S., particularly young women, the *Hope Fellowship Program* is funded by USAID in conjunction with the National Albanian American Council. Representative Pomeroy praised the scholarship recipients and all of Kosovo's citizens: "I'm very happy to be here, especially after the February 17 declaration of independence. I'm impressed with achievements and behavior of Kosovars in general. Kosovo has a bright future. The Hope Fellowship Program helped people from Kosovo meet very influential people in Washington, express their ideas, and lobby for the future of their country." Representative Pomeroy's comments at the event were covered widely in Kosovo print and broadcast media.



Youth Initiative for Human Rights Representatives present a video documenting participant's experiences visiting Kosovo and Serbia. Photo courtesy of the YIHR, 03/24/2008

YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATES EXCHANGES BETWEEN KOSOVO AND SERBIAN YOUTH

On March 24th, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights celebrated the last of 28 exchange visits of Kosovo youth to Serbia and Serbian youth to Kosovo. Funded jointly by USOP PD and Embassy Belgrade, these exchanges facilitated the travel of 80 students over the course of 9 months. The three day visits allowed students to experience the place that they heard about in the news everyday, but never had an opportunity to see first hand. Serbian students visiting Kosovo expressed their initial hesitation and even fear of coming to Kosovo, but also their subsequent delight in feeling so safe and welcomed while in the busy cafés of Pristina. The closing event highlighted a memory book of photos and stories about the visits by program participants.



Valdete Idrizi with President Fatmir Sejdiu. Photo courtesy the Office of the President of Kosovo, 03/26/08

KOSOVO PRESIDENT WELCOMES HOME INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE AWARD WINNER, VALDETE IDRIZI

After receiving the IWOC Award with seven other women from around the world, Kosovo press widely covered Valdete Idrizi's return to Kosovo. Kosovo President, Fatmir Sejdiu congratulated her on her work and her award, as friends and colleagues celebrated her return with T-shirts proclaiming: "Valdete, We are Proud of You!" Ms. Idrizi's award has highlighted the important work of Community Building Mitrovica in bridging the ethnic divide in Mitrovica. At this critical time in Kosovo's and Mitrovica's history, Ms. Idrizi has brought much-needed focus to efforts that bring Kosovo Serbs and Albanians together. Her trip to Washington, her visit there and her return have all been widely covered by all print and broadcast media.



Speaker Joseph Beck talks with local filmmakers at the American Corner in Pristina, about ways to advocate for their rights as artists. Photo: Aferdita Krasniqi, USOP, 03/28-29/08

SPEAKER JOSEPH BECK EXPLAINS HOW PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CAN STIMULATE INVESTMENT

On March 28th and 29th, Strategic Speaker Initiative Speaker, Joseph Beck met with artists, lawmakers and local attorneys to discuss ways Kosovo can stimulate future foreign investment, particularly from the United States, by protecting intellectual property rights. Highlighting the fact that entertainment products and software are two key U.S. exports, Mr. Beck emphasized how protecting these copyrights would help American companies see Kosovo as a potential venue for investment. Citing the strength of the existing law on intellectual property, Mr. Beck suggested ways artists could advocate for their rights by bringing violations of their copyrights to the courts. In an interview on public broadcaster, RTK, Mr. Beck cited admission to the World Trade Organization as a key incentive for protecting intellectual property in Kosovo.



Students at the American Corner Pristina watch *Connect with English*. Photo: Zana Tropoja, USOP, 03/21/08

CONNECT WITH ENGLISH AT THE AMERICAN CORNER ATTRACTS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The American Corner in Pristina has begun regular showings of Anneberg's *Connect with English* series. Students watch an episode of the series that chronicles an American woman's travel across the United States to study music. After each episode, students watch other English language learners discussing the episode. Using accompanying worksheets, students then generated sentences to express their own opinions and predictions about the episode. Although the American Corner Coordinator is a student of English herself, *Connect with English* is an ideal "stand-alone" program for adult and young adult English learners.